

Patent
42530-5600

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OCT 23 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A token purchasing device including
 - a banknote accepting unit for accepting a banknote and determining the denomination of the accepted banknote, the banknote accepting unit outputting a banknote value
 - 5 signal based on the denomination of the accepted banknote;
 - a control unit for receiving the banknote value signal, the control unit outputting a token dispensing signal based on the banknote value signal; and
 - a token dispensing unit for storing and dispensing tokens based on the token dispensing signal, ~~the improvement comprising:~~ ;
 - 10 a clock unit for outputting the current time information including date information and time information;
 - a dispensing number setting unit for setting the dispensing number of tokens from the token dispenser, the dispensing number being determined based on the current time and date information from the clock unit;
 - 15 a touch screen unit for receiving a command from a user, the command from the user indicating the quantity of tokens purchased in a current purchasing mode, the touch screen unit outputting the command from the user to the control unit;
 - a display unit for displaying the dispensing number, the current purchasing mode and user selections, the display unit receiving signals from the control unit; and
 - 20 a dispensing number changing unit for changing the dispensing number based on the current ~~[[time]]~~ date and the current dispensing number,

Patent
42530-5600

wherein the dispensing number is changed for both the display unit and the token dispensing unit by the control unit and the control unit sets a special purchasing mode based on the current time information, date information, hour information, current date information, current hour information and day of the week information by,

5 in a first step, date information and hour information are distinguished, if the special purchasing mode start and end times are set, the second step moves to a second step,

in the second step, if the special purchasing mode day of the week is set, the dispensing number is changed to the special purchasing mode referring to day of the week, and

in a third step, if the special purchasing mode day of the date, the dispensing
10 number is changed to the special purchasing mode referring to the time.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A token purchasing device, comprising:

a banknote accepting unit for accepting banknotes and outputting a banknote value signal based on the denomination of the accepted banknote;

15 a clock unit for outputting the current time information;

a pseudorandom number generator for indicating the predetermined range of times from a start time to an end time;

a control unit for receiving the banknote value signal from the banknote accepting unit and the current time information from the clock unit, the control unit storing a
20 predetermined range of times from a start time to an end time, the control unit computing and outputting a token dispensing signal corresponding to a predetermined quantity of tokens, the predetermined quantity of tokens being a first quantity of tokens when the current time is within

Patent
42530-5600

the predetermined range of times, the predetermined quantity of tokens being a second quantity of tokens when the current time is not within the predetermined range of times, the first quantity of tokens being greater than the second quantity of tokens; and

a token dispensing unit for dispensing the predetermined quantity of tokens based
5 on the token dispensing signal from the control unit,

wherein the token dispensing signal is automatically changed based on the current time information from the clock unit.

4. (Original) The token purchasing device of Claim 3,

wherein the clock unit includes current date information and current hour
10 information, and

wherein the control unit stores a predetermined day information and predetermined hour information, the token dispensing signal being automatically changed based on the current day and current hour information.

5. (Original) The token purchasing device of Claim 3, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying the current purchasing mode and user selections, the
15 display unit receiving signals from the control unit; and

a touch screen unit for receiving a command from a user, the command from the user indicating the quantity of tokens purchased in the current purchasing mode, the touch screen unit outputting the command from the user to the control unit.

20 6. (Cancelled)

Patent
42530-5600

7. (Original) The token purchasing device of Claim 3, further comprising:

a speaker connected to the control unit, the speaker for emitting an audible announcement, the audible announcement being an indication of the availability of a special purchasing mode,

5 wherein a user can purchase a greater quantity of tokens for a predetermined banknote value.

8. (Original) The token purchasing device of Claim 3, further comprising:

a coin dispensing unit for dispensing coins,

10 wherein the coin dispenser can dispense a predetermined quantity of coins with a value corresponding to the difference between the value of the banknote accepted and the value of the quantity of tokens dispensed.

9. (Original) The token purchasing device of Claim 3, further comprising:

15 a smart card accepting unit for accepting a smart card, the smart card conveying a predetermined value, the smart card accepting unit reading the value from the smart card and outputting a smart card value signal,

wherein the control unit receives the smart card value signal from the smart card accepting unit, the control unit computing a token dispensing signal corresponding to a predetermined quantity of tokens.

10. (Original) The token purchasing device of Claim 5,

20 wherein the touch screen unit is in a plane parallel to and overlapping a predetermined portion of the display unit.

Patent
42530-5600

11. (Original) The token purchasing device of Claim 5,
wherein the display unit is a liquid crystal display, a cathode ray tube, a
fluorescent character display tube, or a plasma display panel.

12.-13. (Cancelled)

Patent
42530-5600

14. (New) In a token purchasing system including

a banknote accepting unit for accepting a banknote and determining the denomination of the accepted banknote, the banknote accepting unit outputting a banknote value signal based on the denomination of the accepted banknote;

5 a control unit for receiving the banknote value signal, the control unit outputting a token dispensing signal based on the banknote value signal; and

a token dispensing unit for storing and dispensing tokens based on the token dispensing signal, the improvement comprising;

10 a clock unit for outputting the current time information, the clock unit includes date information, hour information, current date information, current hour information and day of the week information for use by the dispensing number setting unit;

a dispensing number setting unit for setting the dispensing number of tokens from the token dispenser, the dispensing number setting unit for setting the dispensing number of tokens from the token dispenser, the dispensing number being determined based on the current
15 time and date information from the clock unit;

a display unit for displaying the dispensing number; and

a dispensing number changing unit for changing the dispensing number based on the current dispensing number, wherein

20 the control unit sets a special purchasing mode based on the current time information, date information, hour information, current date information, current hour information and day of the week information by,

Patent
42530-5600

in a first step, date information and hour information are distinguished, if the special purchasing mode start and end times are set, the second step moves to a second step,

in the second step, if the special purchasing mode day of the week is set, the dispensing number is changed to the special purchasing mode referring to day of the week, and

5 in a third step, if the special purchasing mode day of the date, the dispensing number is changed to the special purchasing mode referring to the time.

15. (New) The token purchasing system of Claim 14 further including a touch screen unit for receiving a command from a user, the command from the user indicating the quantity of tokens purchased in the current purchasing mode, the touch screen unit outputting the command
10 from the user to the control unit.

16. (New) The token purchasing system of Claim 15 wherein the touch screen unit is in a plane parallel to and overlapping a predetermined portion of the display unit.

17. (New) The token purchasing system of Claim 16 further including:
a speaker connected to the control unit, the speaker for emitting an audible
15 announcement, the audible announcement being an indication of the availability of a special purchasing mode,

wherein a user can purchase a greater quantity of tokens for a predetermined banknote value.

Patent
42530-5600

18. (New) The token purchasing system of Claim 17 further including:

a smart card accepting unit for accepting a smart card, the smart card conveying a predetermined value, the smart card accepting unit reading the value from the smart card and outputting a smart card value signal,

5 wherein the control unit receives the smart card value signal from the smart card accepting unit, the control unit computing a token dispensing signal corresponding to a predetermined quantity of tokens.

19. (New) The token purchasing system of Claim 14 further including a chassis housing and a chassis door, the display unit and the token dispensing unit are mounted on the
10 chassis door.